



Memorandum of Understanding To Participate in the California Desert Managers Group

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to set forth the intentions of the parties, insofar as they are compatible with each agency's primary mission, to participate in and carry out the mission of the California Desert Managers Group (DMG) as provided for in its Charter dated June 2000. The purpose of the DMG is to provide a forum for government agencies to work together to conserve and enhance the California Deserts for current and future generations. Through cooperative management, each agency achieves greater operational efficiency, enhances resource protection, and better serves the public. The mission of the DMG is to:

1. Develop coordinated and complementary management guidelines, practices, and programs.
2. Coordinate and integrate efforts in the California Desert to:
 - a. Conserve and restore desert resources;
 - b. Provide high quality recreation, public education, and visitor services;
 - c. Provide for safety of desert users.
3. Develop and integrate the databases and scientific studies needed for effective resource management and planning.
4. Promote compatibility in the application of each agency's mission.

It is agreed that the DMG may modify its Charter from time to time as experience is gained in carrying out its mission.

This MOU is intended as a guide to carrying out the intentions of the parties and does not commit funding for any project.

B. Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of the DMG is the Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert ecoregions within the State of California. The DMG will coordinate its activities with affected/interested parties throughout the Mojave/Colorado deserts to provide for a consistent ecosystem approach.

C. Term

This MOU shall remain in effect for a period of five years from the date of its execution.

D. Amendment

This MOU may be extended, amended, or terminated by agreement of the parties or any party may withdraw from this MOU upon 30 days written notice to the other parties.

E. Authorities

1. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 1701 et seq)
2. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531-1544, 87 Stat.884)
3. Sikes Act of 1960 (16 USC 670a-670, 74 Stat. 1052), as amended
4. National Park Service Organic Act (16 USC 1 et seq)
5. Omnibus Consolidated Parks Act, 1997
6. State of California Public Resources Code
7. California Fish and Game Code (Section 1802)

F. Relationship to Land Management Plans

Activities of the DMG are intended to be consistent with and support the coordinated implementation of approved plans that have been developed for lands managed by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Defense, and the State of California.

G. No Delegation or Abrogation

Parties to this MOU recognize that they each have statutory responsibilities that cannot be delegated, and that this MOU does not and is not intended to abrogate any of their statutory responsibilities.

H. Funds

Insofar as it is compatible with each agency's primary mission and statutory responsibilities, all parties shall use their best efforts to secure the funding needed to carry out DMG-approved projects. Each project that requires specific funding to be implemented shall be the subject of a separate project-specific agreement between the agencies responsible for its funding and

implementation. All parties agree and understand performance under this MOU is dependent upon the lawful appropriation, authorization, and allocation of funds. All parties agree to develop efficient means for transferring funds among said parties for the purpose of carrying out the mission of the DMG.

 _____ 9/27/00
Secretary of the Interior Date

 _____ 10/5/00
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Date
for Environmental Security

 _____ 9/27/00
Secretary, California Resources Date
Agency

 _____ 11/05/00
Director, California Department of Date
Parks and Recreation

 _____ 11/1/00
Director, California Department of Date
Fish and Game

 _____ 11/14/00
Director, California Department of Date
Transportation